

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants respectfully submit the attached two sheets of new drawings including Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: two sheets of new drawings showing Figure 1 and Figure 2.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 9-25 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In response to the suggestion in the Office Action to add new drawings, Applicants respectfully submit the attached two sheets of new drawings including Figures 1 and 2. These drawings are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

The rejection of claims 10-13 for reciting the phrase “may be” is respectfully traversed.

In each of these claims the phrase is replaced with more conventional patent claim language. In claims 10-12 “may be opened” is replaced with “is openable.” In claim 13 “may be” is replaced with “is”.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 9-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Liang (6,363,771) is respectfully traversed.

Claim recites a reducing agent storage tank have a specified size. In particular, the claim requires that the reducing agent storage tank is configured to have a capacity that is at least equal to a level predetermined by an assumed reducing agent consumption during the maintenance interval. This size is thus determined based on a predicted consumption rate with a predetermined maintenance interval for the motor vehicle.

In contrast, Liang relates to an emission diagnostic system comprising a storage tank for urea. The tank includes a fluid sensor for determining the filling state of the tank, see column 3. This column also describes a heating device, urea pump, air pump, control module, and sensors for urea and air pressure and for NOx.

Liang does not address the size of the tank. However, Liang does teach that detecting the level of urea in the tank and that “the tank needs to be refilled within a certain period of time or miles traveled”, see column 4.

Accordingly, Liang does not disclose the subject matter of claim 9, as well as claims 10-15 which depend from claim 9.

Method claims 16, 19 and 20 are amended to recite that the closure device is configured to only be openable during a maintenance operation. Liang does not appear to recite such an arrangement. Accordingly, Liang does not disclose the method of claim 16 and 19 and the claims dependent therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 095309.57817US).

Respectfully submitted,

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